Hysteria

V invading the nerves & muscles chiefly instead of the blood vessels ~~chiefly~~, or ~~to make~~ to make use of a plain simile – it is gout in the form of light of air ~~day~~, instead of ~~water~~ water or ice – or to use another simile – it is gout =

‡ It accords with the gout ~~in action the remedy of Gout & Hysteria~~ – 1 in its causes. 2 in paroxysms & ~~paroxysms~~ being attended with but always chronic 3 In ~~attacking~~ affecting the whole body & 4 In being hereditary – 5 In ~~all its forms~~ debility ~~nervous irritant – spasm – convulsion &c~~ ~~5 In bringing Other Systems into the sympathy~~

1

Hysteria - formerly ~~called~~ Vapours

nervous disease &c

I adopt this term in conformity to custom. It is a form of disease confined chiefly to the nervous ~~system~~ muscles - & alimentary canal, & now & then affects the blood vessels. I know of no difference between the morbid actions which take place in Hysteria & in what is called Gout. ~~They are both the effects of the same predisposing and exciting causes.~~ There is no more reason to call morbid actions in the nerves & muscles - and bowels by a specific name, than there is to call fevers by different names, when they occupy different viscera. ‡ I said formerly, women were more subject to Gout than men. The frequency of Hysteria, & its numerous symptoms abundantly prove this to be the case. It is Gout ✓ not in broad cloth as it appears in men, but in the nose

V so correctly and ably described by Dr Blackmore
that I shall read his history of it. I am ~~the more~~ induced
~~disposed~~ to do so, that you may the better ~~see~~
~~the~~ be prepared to judge of the ~~correctness of the~~
theory I have given of the Disease. from p: 102 to
~~104~~. 112 — Resembles Eolus agitating the Ocean. It is
— Epilepsy in nervous — muscles & bowels — but not in
V alternately succeeding each other, and
blood vessels.
accompanied with opposite passions and
emotions of joy, sorrow, love & hatred, hope
and despair]

+ ~~2~~ in which state they lie for sometime
They grasp their hands, fix their teeth, &
come to with convulsions in the limbs
sobbing — crying, and a deep groan which
generally terminates the fit.

Sometimes the fit comes on w the exquisite
pain in the head. back stomach & bowels —
then they extend to the ~~muscles~~ limbs where they
create hysteric Rheumatism, w ch continues
for days & weeks. ~~[illegible]~~ These pains are seated for ~~sometimes days in~~

2

loose, and flowing dress of fine muslin and taffeta. The symptoms of a fit of hysteria are numbing noise in the belly, a sense of a globe revolving in the abdomen towards the stomach and fauces called globus hystericus, - a sense of strangulation, a coldness on the head, called clavus hystericus, convulsions, pale urine, laughing, screaming, sobbing & crying, sleepiness, ~~and an appearance of~~ fainting, ~~resembling death~~ and even other asphyxia.

In the intervals of a fit, it assumes all the forms of chronic diseases - as epilepsy, ~~palpitation of the heart~~ - convulsions - vertigo - mania - apoplexy - hemiplegia - colic, cholera morbus cough, angina - dyspnoea - palpitation of the heart, sciatica ~~lumbago~~ lumbago ~~headach~~ - rheumatism - twitching & coldness of the limbs, ~~especially feet~~ - ~~head-ache~~ - a salivation - swellings of the corner of head & neck and back. - ~~tooth~~ - face, legs, and throat resembling dropsy, but differing from it in ~~as~~ being more transient, and ~~going down~~ appearing most in the morning, instead of the night. ~~The pulse during this time often excited.~~

the Skin - membranes & muscles, but do not like the Gout invade - Joints - or ligaments - & they end in Phrensie. Again - ~~the~~ the fits come on with convulsions resembling epilepsy - again the belly swells - & winds issues from it with an alarming noise. each of these forms of fits are analagous to fits of the Gout, ~~but different from it only in invading the nerves & muscles~~ - while its chronic symptoms - are analagous to the chronic symptoms of Gout, but different from it in invading nerves & muscles, while what is called Gout affects the blood vessels chiefly - tho' often the same parts as hystaria. In short they ought to be called one disease.

See Blackmore & read from p: 102 to 112 morbity what - has "~~Gout~~ imit" combined - but Hystaria depends on each - ~~cause~~ "Irritabity.

Do not suppose Hystaria exists in paroxysms & intervals only such as I have described. There are paroxysms & no disease in their intervals, and chronic forms of it without any paroxysms.

A The mind under all these forms of nervous, and muscular disease partakes of the mobility of the body. It is capricious, & fickle in all its pleasures, attachments & pursuits - ~~and~~ so much so as to be (to use the words of Dr Sydenham) "constant only in inconstancy". A disposition to laugh loud, or often, at a upon trifling occasions, belongs to an hysterical constitution. It is so deeply seated in some persons, as to elude the command of their wills, and to appear at times & in places that do not accord with it. The late Duke was so forcibly affected with it the last years of his life, that he laughed at every thing he said, or did. Even in middle life, his wife informed me, he was often obliged to pinch himself severely

from p 5

Its burning to, generally suspends all the symptoms of the disease. Dr Whyt mentions the case of this kind in a Lady of 30 years of age, whose pulse from being weak suddenly became full & active. the ~~was~~ ~~sonsa~~ became at the same time delirious, or maniacal. The disease here was translated from the nerves to the blood vessels of the brain. While I thus confine Hysteria to the nervous system — take notice — it sometimes exists combined with all the other systems of the body.

A great or "Canine appetite coming on suddenly suspends all the symptoms of Hysteria as certainly as a full or tense pulse, and why? because it ~~It~~ attracts & concentrates morbid excitement in the stomach. (a)

turn over —

in order to check a propensity to laugh at some trifling idea, or object that occurred to his imagination or his eyes, while he was in the pulpit addressing his Congregation upon the most serious subjects.

~~The~~ Hysteria affects ~~persons~~ women from puberty to the time in which the menses cease. I have seen it in two sisters - the one but 2, & the other but six years old. It ~~of~~ is not confined to delicate habits. we sometimes see it in masculine female constitutions.

It is distinguished from all the chronic forms of disease (which it counterfeits) by being confined chiefly to the ~~nervous~~ nerves & muscles ~~system~~. Hence the pulse in a paroxysm is seldom full or tense. In its intervals, the pulse is for the most part natural, except in those cases in which it obtains the

It is distinguished from Epilepsy in its predispositions by not affecting the brain, or blood vessels, at all. Or in a very feeble manner.

⊙ This mobility depends upon an excess of both sensibility & irritability in the nervous ~~system~~ systems.

V ~~5~~ By not being attended with durable alienation ~~instability~~ of mind. In Hysteria - it is transient, ~~and~~ going off the w: a fit of the disease. #

~~Upon~~ the history and marks which I have given of this disease, you will perceive that it is a superficial one. It is confined chiefly to the nerves & muscles. Compared with the diseases ch: w: affect the blood vessels, it is like ~~paint~~ pictures in water colors, compared with pictures in oils or mosaic work. After ~~they~~ it ~~have~~ has continued a while ~~they~~ it sinks deeper into the system & produces Hypocondriasis or a general flaw of the system which might have been called Hypochondriasis. When deeper ~~diseases~~ morbid action in the blood vessels ~~which are~~ of the disease. If this

Name of Hysteria plethorica. turn back to V. p: 4

(a) It is distinguished from what is called Hypocandriasis
1 by the peculiar mobility of the ~~body~~ nervous System, and instability of the mind. ~~Obtuse~~
2 By being worst in warm weather, & most common in warm Climates.
3 By affecting women more than men.
4 By a twilling or sensation in the thyroid gland called the Globus hystericus.
5 By the absence of Dyspepsia. Take notice – they often blend their Symptoms together as I shall say hereafter. – They often succeed each other, and now & then alternate with each other. Hysteria often precedes Hypocond: and Hypocond: often goes of in Hysteria.

(b) The remote Causes of Hysteria ~~are~~ such as act upon the body & mind. The 1 are plethora, an inordinate flow, or

~~occurs in the brain~~ phrenic part the disease is mania - if on the lungs - a nervous asthma - or nervous consumptn - if on the bowels - a nervous colic. if ~~on~~ on the kidneys Diabetes ~~Dropsy~~ - &c

(.) The hysteria seldom, perhaps never destroys life while it retains its original character, but from its frequent though transient visits to ~~vital or~~ organic parts, ~~it~~ in its successive paroxysms, it wears them ~~out~~ down in such a manner, as ~~being an~~ induce fatal diseases in them, or predispose them to disease & death from other causes. ~~return to 5~~ ~~the remote &c~~ (a) (β)

The diseases - thus induced are called hysterics - we have nervous consumptn nervous asthma - nervous colic &c but they are as really diseases of the blood vessels - or of other ~~fr~~ systems besides the nervous as if they had originated from cold - &c. Do not gout & fevers induce visceral diseases? & Do we or ought we to call them gouty consumptn &c or febrile consumptn - no - no - all disease - although

6

Obstruction of the menses. fluor albus. ~~Dysmenorrhea~~ - obstructed viscera - worms - chlorosis - strong drinks & strong tea. It is from the two last, that it prevails so much in Kitchens, as well as in the chambers of high life. 2 the remote causes which act upon the mind are anger, malice, envy, love, jealousy, and strong venereal desires.

Its exciting causes are any of its remote causes applying with sudden, or unusual force. also Offensive smells - impure air, - fatigue, - joy, terrors & even surprise, or a sudden impression of any of the passions which were enumerated among its ~~predisposing~~ remote causes.

From the history that has been given of the symptoms, and causes of this disease, you will see at once, that its predisposing cause is debility in the nerves of alimentary

It consists in
Canals ~~and its proximate~~ - feeble excite-
-ment with a undue proportion of
excitability or ~~mobility~~ floating this the system
constituting what I have called ~~mobility~~.
~~There is the system the~~ An excess of irri-
-tability & sensibility combine I have said in the
production of this predisposition [It
has been called when thus combined
by Dr Cullen mobility].

[Its proximate cause like that
of all other Diseases is morbid excitement
in ~~nearly~~ all the ~~its~~ forms of Spasm, Convulsion,
Suffocated excitement - heat - & itching]

Cure. ~~p. 485 no 10.~~

This divides itself into two heads.
I The Remedies proper in a paroxysm.
II The Remedies proper in the intervals
of the paroxysms.
I to the this belongs 1 VS. when the

System is plethoric, which is generally the case when it arises from obstructed menses, or where it occurs in persons with good appe-tites.

2 Opening & Stimulating Glysters: Asafatida and the fat combined with them.

3 Stimulating Odors applied to the nose such as Spirits: burnt feathers, & Asafatida. A physician in New England after having tried the above odors to no purpose, ~~to no purpose~~, pulled off his boot, & applied his toes smoking with the fated sweat of his feet, to the nose of his patient. The immediately recovered. The more common odors had probably lost their good effects from habit.

4 Pediluvium. 5 Mustard & garlic to the feet.

6 As a great deal of the ~~distress~~ pain of a patient in a fit of this disease arises from air pent up in the bowels, it should be discharged by fixing a Glyster pipe in the Anus. Such

is the force of the retrograde motion of the bowels, that the Sphincter Ani has been known to snap off the pipe, & to draw it several inches up the bowels.

~~As soon as the patient is able to~~

~~soon~~ If all these Remedies fail, & the fit should take the form of Asphixia, the ~~nostrils~~ holes of the feet & the nostrils shd. be tickled, or water should be dropped upon the upper lip. But of these remedies I shall say more under the head of Asphixia.

As soon as the patient is able to swal= low, ~~Opium~~ Laud.m, or flour & water should be given. The latter ~~&~~ is useful in discharging wind from the ~~Stomach~~.

11 The Remedies proper to prevent a return of the paroxysms of Hysteria are ~~&~~ Tonics. These are 1 The Cold Bath. Mr Pannie speaks highly of inpressing patients subject to this

V Acids - whether in Vinegar or pickles ought
be forbidden in the Diet of hysterical pa-
-tients. Even an apple has sometimes
been hurtful. ~~Milk from the Acid it evolves~~
in the Stomach is often hurtful. Acids
from all these sources destroy the natural
contractility of the nerves & induce in them
a morbid irritability. But there are cases
which forbid cordial Diet - or even stimulating
tonic medicines. These are where patients become
feverish. Here they must be suspended
till the fever is removed. Whey - and
mild Aliment is proper at this time.
Dr Tissot mentions Cures being performed
by a diet exclusively of Rennet Whey. It
was in habits too irritable to bear the
stimulus of any other foods. Dr Sydenham
cured it by a milk diet. These mild Aliments
are proper when there is reason to believe any
Acrid humor affects the nervous System. -

disease for ~~twenty~~ hours 10 hours in cold water.

2 The cordial gums. These are Asafoetida — Galbanum
myrrh & Sagapenum. ~~Dichotomy~~, Asafoetida is the
most powerful of them all — in pills — spirit: tinc-
3 Bitters of all kinds. — ture & watery solution.

4 Certain metals — such as the different prepara-
-tions of Iron Copper — Zinc ~~Lead~~ Lead — and
Arsenic. Iron should be preferred where worms
are suspected. They are sometimes a powerful cathartic.
5 Stimulating plasters to the bowels. Galbanum
is used, and with great advantage for this purpose.

6 ~~Compressions~~ Bandages bound round the limbs,
and whole body. They give tone to the muscular
System. Van Swieten first suggested them. I
have known them twice used with success.

7 The Diet should be solid & cordial, but not nourishing,
if the ~~System~~ blood vessels are brought into ~~hyperac~~
Sympathy, and become plethoric. If they are not
plethoric the diet may be cordial, & nourishing.

8 Exercise, especially on horse back.

9 Labor. Remember in the use of all these remedies
to relieve the systems & to constitute and suitably to debility of
the Constant pursuit of varie — p. 11

invigorating Object - E.g: a garden is the business of a woman - she should be engaged in the love and acquisition of seeds - roots & flowers from distant parts of the world, - women should likewise be invited to the care of a family. the ~~more~~ larger the better. Here good housewives are ~~was~~ troubled with the hysterics. - they ~~chiefly~~ affect those mistresses of families chiefly who have ~~no~~ care upon their minds - & who spend their time in idle, or debilitating pleasures. a lady in this city who was much afflicted with the hysteria from the above causes, asked a sensible female friend "what she should do to get rid of her all her diseases & distresses". "Go (said her friend) & fall down on your knees & ask the Almighty for some real trouble, & that will soon cure you of all your imaginary diseases & distresses". - 11th Therefore

- ritement of a more steady passion. turn or ... to p. 12

Fear & grief have often cured Hysteria.

They act by ~~concentrating~~ fixing the mind to one subject, and thus absorb, and concentrate those weak morbid actions which are produced by the mind in its variable state in other parts of the body. ~~and~~ I have several times known the death of a ~~loss~~ child cure Hysteria in a mother. Any pursuit, or object which ~~fixes the~~ absorbs & concentrates all the faculties of the mind has the same effect. Dr Cullen used to say there was no Hysteria in Scotland in the year 1745. It was the year of the last Rebellion in that country during which time every woman thought only of the fate of a husband, a Son, or a Brother. I once heard the Revd Mr Whitefield say that a woman, the wife of an London Apothecary ~~had~~ was suddenly ~~lost all its symptoms~~ cured of the Hysteria in all its forms by becoming a methodist. The principles, duties of this new sect absorbed

v and concentrated all the faculties of her mind. Lady Rachel Russel, no doubt, was cured of ~~12 a Cold Climate, & 13 Matrimony. I have Often known it~~ an hysterical head ache which she had had for many years, by the grief and distress which followed the execution of her beloved Husband Lord Wm Russel.

12 a change of Climate. a Cold Climate should be preferred to a warm One.

13 Matrimony. I have known Hysteria cured by this remedy, especially where it had been followed by Child bearing. But where this is not the case, it often cures by creating real care, and uniform & concentrated pursuits. I am aware this remedy is forbidden by Tissot - Mandeville - and Lynch - but it can be only in persons ~~too debilit~~ of habits too debilitated to be cured by most other remedies. ~~The Remedies for all its Sects in the Viscera - formerly mentioned.~~ This Disease requires perseverance

in the use of all the Remedies that have been mentioned for not weeks - and months only but years ~~It claims~~ ~~requisite~~ in order to cure it. In short our business is not so much to remove ~~we cannot cure to remove~~ a disease - as to change the constitution by ~~con~~ correcting its nervous ~~tem~~ ~~permanent~~ diseases predispositions.

Hysteria is sometimes cured by time - when this is the case it is performed by the nerves yielding to some other predisposition, ~~transplacement~~, but if it ~~is~~ ~~yielding is a cross~~ ~~in~~ disease, ~~or by~~ Hypocondiasis from the nerves wearing themselves down from the laxism to the strictum state ~~Stricture~~ — It ~~often ends~~ ~~in~~ sometimes terminates as Apoplexy said in organic diseases such as palsy - Epilepsy - Dropsy - Madness ~~death~~ and in ~~a~~ many other diseases which it is said to ~~be~~ by affecting the arterial system. In these

Cases you are to treat them as if they had originated from Other Causes by the Remedies formerly recommended for those diseases, and by no means to be deterred from doing so by being told that this causes were nervous, or hysterical. Recollect the remote Causes of a Disease is a Unit as well as its proximate cause. Thus Arterial Diseases encroach on Nerves - Why not nervous, on the Arteries? Recollect how often I have mentioned Hysteria & Hypocond: as predisposing Causes of Deep seated organic diseases.